

## UN policies on drugs

The European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party, convening in Stockholm, Sweden, on 30th and 31st October 2008:

- Having regard to the recommendation of the European Parliament to the Council on production of opium for medical purposes in Afghanistan, adopted on October 25, 2007.
- Whereas the production, consumption and commerce of narcotic substances are the subject of three Conventions adopted by the United Nations in 1961, 1971 and 1988.
- Whereas the UN held a special session on "drugs" in June 1998 in New York, where a plan to eradicate, or substantially reduce, prohibited plants and their derivatives was launched and financed.
- Whereas the UN held a Ministerial mid-term review session in Vienna in March 2003 to address the progress of the 1998 plan.
- Considering that over the last 10 years the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has documented the steady increase in the production of prohibited substances and a stabilization in the consumption of so-called "hard drugs", while "soft drugs" use is on the rise the world over and chemical substances are trafficked also in developing countries.
- Considering that the European Commission and a dozen EU Member States are among the largest donors to the UNODC and to individual efforts to reduce or substitute illegal crops with legal ones through UNDP in Latin America and South Asia.
- Denouncing the fact that on several occasions, agreements to eradicate drugs have been entered into with anti-democratic and authoritarian regimes such as Laos, Myanmar, Afghanistan (during Taliban control), as well as Iran, Vietnam and China that sanction drug trafficking with the death penalty.
- Convinced that liberal common sense imposes the need to evaluate and assess these facts through a public process within Europe and the UN system.
- Whereas the UN will hold a special session on drugs next spring, which will involve governments at the highest level;

Urges all ELDR member parties to promote national efforts to emphasize the need to evaluate what has been achieved by the UN vis-à-vis the production, consumption and trade of the substances listed in the three UN Conventions and to promote measures that can provide a real

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alternative to the failure of the ineffective prohibitionist regime imposed internationally since 1961.

Invites all ELDR member parties to send representatives to the UN on the occasion of the 2009 forum.

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